

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-12 are pending and rejected in the application. Claims 1, 6 and 7 have been amended. Claims 3 and 8-12 have been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added.

On page 3, the Official Action rejects claims 1 and 4-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Radimirsich (U.S. 6, 212,202) in view of Haartsen (U.S. 2009/0122775). The rejection of claims 8-11 is moot in view of their cancellation

On page 7, the Official Action rejects claims 2 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Radimirsich, Haartsen and Koval (U.S. 20040109497). The rejection of claim 12 is rendered moot in view of its cancellation.

On page 9, the Official Action rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Radimirsich, Haartsen, Liu (U.S. 7,103,371) and Mano (U.S. 6,778,586).

It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' claim 1 includes features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... together with an identifier of the first radio communication device and an identifier of the second radio communication device in a communication prohibition table ... decides a time slot ... based on the communication prohibition table ...

Claim 1 relates to a communication prohibition table. Specifically, an identifier of both a first radio communication device and a second radio communication device are stored in the communication prohibition table. This allows a third radio communication device to decide when transmission and reception is possible based on the prohibition table. Support for this feature can be at least found in paragraphs 88 and 89 of the specification, and furthermore shown in Fig. 8. In general, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of cancelled claim 3 and the additional claim features bolded above. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejects claim 3 based on the combination Radimirsich, Haartsen, Liu and Mano. Specifically, the Examiner states that Liu teaches a third radio communication device which receives time reservation request information and stores the slot as a transmission prohibition time slot. Similarly, the Examiner believes that Mano teaches the third radio communication device deciding on a time slot based on the stored time slots of transmission prohibition. Col. 11 of Liu, however, only suggests determining available transmission slots ("*determines available transmission and retransmission slots based on the extracted information*"), and does not suggest the prohibition table including **identifiers** for the radio communication devices. Similarly, Col. 4 of Mano only suggests searching for vacant slots ("*assigned in advance or may be dynamically assigned by searching for vacant slots*"), and does not suggest a prohibition table including **identifiers** for radio communication devices.

Applicants' claim 1 is patentable over the art of record because of a communication prohibition table which includes identifiers for other radio communication devices ("*together with an identifier of the first radio communication device and an identifier of the second radio communication device in a communication prohibition table ... decides a time slot ... based on the communication prohibition table*"). This feature is at least supported in paragraphs 88 and 89 of Applicants' specification ("*radio communication device 102 registers the RTS signal 701 and the communication prohibition table as a time slot of communication prohibition. Fig. 8 shows registration data at this time, in which the source station ID mac address of the received RTS signal 701 is recorded in the source ID 801, the RTS signal 701 received by the destination station ID 304 is recorded in a destination ID 802*"). Thus, both the source station ID and the destination station ID are stored in the prohibition table. These IDs are also shown in Fig. 8 as source ID 801 and destination ID 802. Thus, if the radio communication device tries to register when it has already been registered, then reregistering will not be performed. This feature is described in paragraph 89 of the specification ("*radio communication device 102 is also located in area 114 ... the radio communication device 102 tries to register the signal in the communication prohibition table 205 as a time slot of communication prohibition, but it was registered when it received the RTS signal 701, so that registration is not performed again*"). Thus, by storing the IDs in the prohibition table, duplicate registration of slots may be avoided.

Neither Radimirsich, Haartsen nor their combination suggests the features in Applicants' claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above.

Dependent claims 2, 4 and 5 include all of the features of claim 1 from which they depend. Thus, claims 2, 4 and 5 are patentable over the art of record due to their dependency on claim 1.

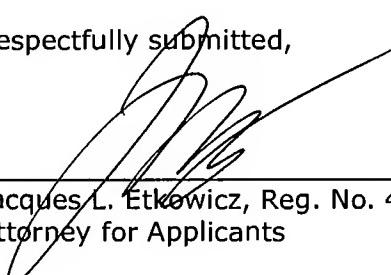
Neither Radimirsich, Haartsen, Koval nor their combinations suggest the features in Applicants' claim 1. Thus, Koval does not make up for the deficiencies of Radimirsich and Haartsen.

Neither Liu, Mano nor their combinations suggest the features in Applicants' claim 1. Thus, Liu and Mano do not make up for the deficiencies of Radimirsich and Haartsen.

Claims 6 and 7 have been amended similarly to claim 1. Thus, claims 6 and 7 are also patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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